

Sri M. NAGAPPA.—No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER.—The motion is withdrawn.

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—I do not know whether the treasury benches have blacklisted any Members on this side in answering interpellations. I send only one interpellation for this session and they have not cared to reply.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I request the Minister to expedite the reply.

Calling Attention to a matter of urgent public importance *re*: Strike by the High School Students at Lokapur, Mudhol Taluk

Sri K. H. PATIL.—I call the attention of the Minister for Education to the situation that has arisen due to the strike continued by the High School students at Lokapur in Mudhol Taluk.

Sri N. M. KOTRABASAI AH SOGI (Deputy Minister for Education).—Sir, with reference to the Call Attention Notice No. 11 of Shri K. H. Patil under Rule 63 (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Mysore Legislative Assembly, I beg to make the following statement :

On 12th August 1969, there was a strike of the pupils of Lokapur High School, Mudhol Taluka, Bijapur District. It was a Bazar Day and a few students marched out of the school; and they were soon followed by others. It is gathered that the reason for the strike was non-disbursement of the Depressed Class Scholarship of one student. The value of the scholarship was Rs. 75. The Headmaster had not disbursed this amount, even though he had received the amount for disbursement. When questioned by the Assistant Educational Officer, Bijapur, the Head Master explained that he was intending to disburse the amount in a public meeting to be arranged before long. This explanation cannot be accepted as satisfactory, as the amount was expected to be disbursed in the month of March itself. It has been reported that the amount has since been disbursed.

Regarding alleged harassment to students through collection of excess fees contrary to rules, it is reported that many students did not pay their Games, Sports and Reading Room Fees in one lump as expected. These fees were being collected in instalments as and when the pupils made the payments and the receipt was passed only after recovery of the amount in full. It is possible that the pupils must have thought that the Head Master has been harassing them, only because he was reminding them every now and then for the full payment of their Games, Sport and Reading Room Fees.